

Application No.: 10/826964

Docket No.: 05129-00081-US

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the amendment and following remarks. Claims 16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Although, the applicant does not necessarily agree with this rejection, however, in order to expedite prosecution, the applicant has cancelled these claims.

Claims 12-14 and 24-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Michaud et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,973,055 for the reasons of record in the previous office action. The applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The Examiner indicated that claims 15, 17-19 are allowable over the prior art. However, in order to expedite prosecution, the applicant has rewritten allowed claims 15, 17 and 19 into independent form. Claim 12 incorporates the features of claim 17. The only independent claims are claims 12, 15 and 19 which are now deemed allowable by the Examiner. For the above reasons, this rejection should be withdrawn. In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 05129-00081-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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